

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FRB-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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P R 102215Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7236

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTIONS TO U.S. TRADE LAW AND SHLAUDEMANN  
APPOINTMENT

SUMMARY: VENEZUELAN PRESS ASSOCIATION, THE MAS PARTY, AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS HAVE JOINED THE CHORUS OF CRITICISM HERE OF THE NEW U.S. TRADE LAW. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY, HOWEVER, HAS CAUTIONED AGAINST USING THE U.S. TRADE LAW ISSUE FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JANUARY 8, THE LEFT-WING VENEZUELAN ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS ADOPTED A PUBLIC DECLARATION PROTESTING THE NOMINATION OF HARRY SHLAUDEMANN AS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA AND REJECTING THE POLICY OF "NORTH AMERICAN AGGRESSION" AGAINST VENEZUELA AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD. THE DECLARATION STATED THAT U.S. COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON'S REVELATION OF A SECRET REPORT BY A  
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HIGH-LEVEL U.S. COMMISSION PREDICTING FUTURE ARMED INTERVENTION

BY THE U.S. IN LATIN AMERICA WAS A MATTER OF "SPECIAL GRAVITY". THIS ASSOCIATION SAID I WOULD ATTEMPT TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR "THIS STRUGGLE IN DEFENSE OF THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR COUNTRIES" DURING THE MEETING ON JANUARY 17 IN CARACAS OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF JOURNALISTS.

2. EL NACIONAL REPORTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS SOCIALISM (MAS) PARTY HAD SENT A TELEGRAM TO U.S. CONGRESSMEN MICHAEL HARRINGTON, BENJAMIN ROSENTHAL, RON DELLUMS, CHARLES WHALEN AND DONALD FRAZER OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND TO SENATORS JAMES ABOUREZK, PHILIP HART, GEORGE MCGOVERN, EDWARD KENNEDY, GAYLORD NELSON, AND MARK HATFIELD. THIS MESSAGE CLAIMED THAT THE SHLAUDEMANN NOMINATION, THE NEW TRADE LAW AND THE "THREATS" BY PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER "PROVED THE AGGRESSIVE DIRECTION OF NORTH AMERICAN POLICY."

3. THE PRESS REPORTED PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN MEXICO CITY BY THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO, FRANCISCO HERRERA LUQUE, THAT THE NEW U.S. TRADE LAW WOULD "BOMMERANG" AGAINST U.S. INTERESTS AND THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SUGGESTIONS OF MILITARY INTERVENTION WERE FUTILE SINCE VENEZUELA HAS AN "EXCELLENT ARMED FORCES, A UNITED POPULACE AND A FIGHTING TRADITION." HERRERA LUQUE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT WELL-KNOWN JOURNALIST AND AD DEPUTY LUIS ESTEBAN REY WOULD BE THE NEW VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO CUBA. ACCORDING TO EL NACIONAL, FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT HAS ASKED HERRERA LUQUE TO SEND TO CARACAS THE FULL TEXT OF HIS STATEMENTS AND SCHACHT HAS REFUSED TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC COMMENT ON THESE STATEMENTS. (COMMENT: THE GOV HAS YET TO DESIGNATE ANYONE OFFICIALLY AS AMBASSADOR TO CUBA. END COMMENT.)

4. THE YOUTH WING OF THE RULING ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY ON JANUARY 8 ADDED ITS SUPPORT TO THE GOV'S ACTIONS AGAINST THE DISCRIMINATORY FEATURES OF THE NEW U.S. TRADE LAW. RAMON RANGEL MANTILLA, HEAD OF THE INERNTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE YOUTH WING, CLAIMED THAT THE NEW LAW REFLECTED "AN OBSTINATE TENDENCY ON THE PART OF THE NORTH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TOWARDS BLINDNESS AND INCOMPREHENSION OF THE NEW LATIN AMERICA REALITY." ON THE SAME DAY, THE COUNCIL OF THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF VENEZUELA PROTESTED SHLAUDEMANN'S NOMINATION.

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5. IN CONTRAST TO THE EMOTIONAL TONE OF MANY OF THESE POLITICAL PROTESTS AGAINST THE NEW TRADE LAW, PEDRO PABLO AGUILAR, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LEADING OPPOSITION PARTY (COPEI), STATED IN AN INTERVIEW WITH EL NACIONAL THAT VENEZUELA SHOULD DEFEND ITS POSITION WITH FIRMNESS AND PRUDENCE, BUT WITHOUT "INFANTILISM AND ROMANTICISM." WHILE AGREEING WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OTHER PARTIES ON THEIR NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE U.S. TRADE LAW, HE

SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO AVOID FANNING PUBLIC EMOTION WITH PROPAGANDA AND VOTE-SEEKING STATEMENTS--EXEMPLIFIED BY THE GOV'S SLOGANEERING OVER IRON ORE NATIONALIZATION (CARACAS 239)--AND TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER MORE QUIETLY. HE ALSO CRITICIZED PEREZ FOR AGAIN FAILING TO CONSULT WITH A BROADER SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN VENEZUELA BEFORE MAKING MAJOR DECISIONS. "THE ONLY INFORMATION WHICH WE RECEIVE FROM THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT" SAID AGUILAR, "IS WHAT WE READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS."

6. COMMENT: AS REFLECTED IN THIS AND PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTS, PUBLIC CRITICISM HERE OF THE SHLAUDEMANN NOMINATION IS STILL CONFINED LARGELY TO LEFT-WING, NATIONALIST AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS. PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. TRADE LAW IS MUCH MORE BROADLY BASED.  
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